

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (canceled)
2. (canceled)
3. (previously presented) A brake cam actuator for a washing machine, comprising:

a cylindrical cam actuator body comprising first and second ends; and  
a ring attached to said first end, wherein said ring comprises a plurality of segments, extends from said first end, and is configured to separate said first end from an end of a transmission pulley hub, and said segments form a bearing surface.
4. (original) A brake cam actuator in accordance with Claim 3 wherein said plurality of segments comprises equally spaced arcs.
5. (previously presented) A brake cam actuator in accordance with Claim 4 wherein said plurality of segments are spaced about 25° from one another around a circumference of said first end.
6. (original) A brake cam actuator in accordance with Claim 3 wherein said plurality of segments are equal in length.
7. (original) A brake cam actuator in accordance with Claim 6 wherein said segments extend about 95 degrees around a circumference of said first end.
8. (original) A brake cam actuator in accordance with Claim 3 wherein said plurality of segments comprises three segments.
9. (original) A brake cam actuator in accordance with Claim 3 wherein said ring is integral with said body.

10. (canceled)

11. (original) A brake cam actuator in accordance with Claim 3 wherein said body is tapered.

12. (previously presented) A brake cam actuator assembly, comprising:

a brake cam actuator comprising a body comprising first and second ends, said first end comprising a segmented ring;

a transmission pulley hub for driving said brake cam actuator first end, said segmented ring forming a bearing surface for said transmission pulley hub; and

a wrap spring clutch circumscribing said body and said hub for driving engagement of said pulley and said hub in a first rotational direction, and for slipping engagement between said pulley and said hub in a second direction.

13. (original) A brake cam actuator assembly in accordance with Claim 12 wherein said first rotational direction is clockwise.

14. (original) A brake cam actuator assembly in accordance with Claim 12 wherein said segmented ring comprises a plurality of substantially equal arc segments.

15. (original) A brake cam actuator assembly in accordance with Claim 14 wherein said arc segments extend about 95 rotational degrees around a circumference of said first end.

16. (original) A brake cam actuator assembly in accordance with Claim 15 wherein said arc segments are equally spaced from one another.

17. (original) A brake cam actuator assembly in accordance with Claim 12 wherein said ring is integrally formed with said body.

18. (previously presented) A brake cam actuator assembly in accordance with Claim 12 wherein said second end comprises a plurality of ramps.

19. (original) A brake cam actuator assembly in accordance with Claim 12 wherein said body is tapered.

20. (original) A brake cam actuator assembly in accordance with Claim 12 wherein said segmented ring comprises three arc segments separated from one another by about 25 rotational degrees around a circumference of said first end.

21. (previously presented) A brake cam actuator in accordance with Claim 3 wherein said transmission pulley hub is coupled to a pulley system.

22. (previously presented) A brake cam actuator in accordance with Claim 21 further comprising a drive motor configured to drive an agitator via said pulley system.

23. (new) A method for reducing noise in an agitate cycle of a washing machine, the washing machine including a brake cam actuator including a cylindrical body having first and second ends, a transmission pulley hub for driving engagement of said cam, and a wrap spring clutch circumscribing the transmission pulley hub and the brake actuator body for coupling rotation of the transmission pulley hub to the brake cam actuator body in at least one rotational direction, said method comprising the steps of:

forming a segmented ring on the first end of the cam actuator body, the ring comprising a plurality of arc segments separated from one another around a circumference of the first end, thereby increasing a tolerance of imperfections of the first end and forming controlled leak paths for minor oil leaks, directing oil away from the second end of the brake cam actuator; and

assembling the transmission pulley hub, brake cam actuator and wrap spring clutch.

24. (new) A method in accordance with Claim 23 wherein said step of forming the segmented ring comprises the step of integrally molding the brake cam actuator body and the ring.